Homily by Deacon Luis P. Villanueva for 8AM Mass on Monday, June 7, 2021 at St. Joseph

Church, Devine, TX-Fr. Antonio Hernandez, Pastor - Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

We all have this natural desire for happiness that God has placed in every heart. And Christ Jesus has given us and laid out the pathway to that happiness we all desire as we heard in the gospel of today, through the Beatitudes.

The Beatitudes invite us to live out our lives in a way in which it brings us closer to our daily goal of attaining happiness. The Beatitudes propose to us to identify with the poor, those who mourn, the meek, and those who hunger and thirst after justice...part of the Ten

Commandments which commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves... and there is our challenge. Only through the Holy Trinity can we do this. (Through the eyes and heart of Jesus)

They challenge us to be compassionate Christian people, who are pure in heart, and to become the peacemakers in our families, in dealings with one another, and in the communities where we live and work, even when in doing these things we are ridiculed and persecuted.

Jesus calls us to not work only to accumulate worldly treasures, as our only purpose in life nor to acquire power or to gain popularity. He calls our hearts to desire and always be in search for the real and most important treasure of all which is, life eternal with God, the reward which God promises and gives to his faithful at the end of this short earthly life.

Let us be inspired by the lives of the saints to stay on the right course, calling on their help for their prayers, their faith and courage during our daily challenges, our temptations, and stormy days.

We can receive the help also of God's grace through the Sacraments, his grace that Christ said is sufficient for us to walk the way of the Beatitudes, to remain faithful until the end of our lives as he said "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven " ...and we shall then hear the consoling words of the Lord, Well done, my good and faithful servant, enter into the joys of your master which have been prepared from the beginning of time". God bless you.

Todos tenemos este deseo natural de la felicidad que Dios ha puesto en cada coraz6n. Y Cristo Jests nos ha ensefiado el camino hacia esa felicidad que todos deseamos, como escuchamos en el evangelio de hoy, a través de las Bienaventuranzas.

Las Bienaventuranzas nos invitan a vivir nuestra Vida de una manera que nos acerque a nuestro objetivo diario de alcanzar la felicidad.

Las Bienaventuranzas nos proponen identificarnos con los pobres, los que lanentan, los mansos, los que tienen hambre y sed de justicia ... parte de los Diez Mandamientos que nos mandan a amar al pröjimo como a nosotros mismos ... y ahi estå nuestro desaffo porque solo a través de la Santisima Trinidad podemos hacer esto. (A través de los ojos y el corazön de Jests)

Todo esto si es possible con la gracia de Dios a través de los sacramentos, su gracia que Cristo dijo es suficiente para que caminemos por el camino de las Bienaventuranzas, para permanecer fieles hasta el final de nuestra Vida. Cristo tambien nos anima con sus palabras, "Alégrate porque tu recompensa sera grande en los cielos y al final de nuestras vidas, oiremos las palabras consoladoras del Senor: "Bien, mi buen y fiel siervo, entra en las alegrias de tu senor, preparadas desde elprincipio de Ios tiempos 'f. God bless you.